

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Rep. Dent introduces bill to tap Civil Air Patrol for border security; 34 members co-sign

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15), a member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, today introduced HR 1333, “Civil Air Patrol Homeland Security Support Act of 2007,” to bolster efforts at securing America’s borders. The bill has 34 cosponsors and bipartisan support.

This legislation would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to enlist Civil Air Patrol (CAP) assets to help in the fight to keep our borders secure. CAP is the official civilian auxiliary of the United States Air Force, comprising volunteer pilots with small aircraft.

Congressman Dent introduced the bill to address concerns raised to him by officers of Customs and Border Protection, who said they lack aviation assets and resources for their important mission.

“CAP pilots are eager to participate in America’s homeland security mission,” Congressman Dent said. “The cost of flying and maintaining CAP aircraft is relatively inexpensive, the pilots are experienced, and the need for their assistance is great.”

Congressman Dent’s legislation authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to utilize CAP assets in two important kinds of homeland security

missions. First, they can be deployed to protect against illegal entry, as well as against “trafficking in goods, currency, people, and other substances.” Second, they can also be utilized in response to an act of terrorism or natural disaster by assisting in damage assessment, search and rescue, evacuations, and the transportation of essential materials.

Congressman Dent serves as Ranking Member (minority chairman) of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response.

Original cosponsors of HR 1333:

Roscoe Bartlett (MD-6)	Steve King (IA-5)
Marsha Blackburn (TN-7)	Mark S. Kirk (IL-10)
Leonard L. Boswell (IA-3)	Ray H. LaHood (IL-18)
Robert A. Brady (PA-1)	Michael McCaul (TX-10)
Ginny Brown-Waite (FL-5)	Thaddeus G. McCotter (MI-11)
Dan Burton (IN-5)	Michael H. Michaud (ME-2)
Thomas M. Davis III (VA-11)	Patrick Murphy (PA-8)
John J. Duncan (TN-2)	Todd R. Platts (PA-19)
Vernon Ehlers (MI-3)	Dave Reichert (WA-8)
Jo Ann H. Emerson (MO-8)	Rick Renzi (AZ-1)
Philip S. English (PA-3)	Michael D. Rogers (AL-3)
Virginia Foxx (NC-5)	C.A. “Dutch” Ruppersberger (MD-2)
Jim Gerlach (PA-6)	Bill Shuster (PA-9)
Louie Gohmert (TX-01)	John M. Spratt, Jr. (SC-5)
Sam Graves (MO-6)	Adrian Smith (NE-3)
Tim Holden (PA-17)	Lee Terry (NE-2)
Peter King (NY-3)	Fred Upton (MI-6)

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